

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present response is being filed within two (2) months after the mailing date of the final rejection.

Claims 1-25 remain in the application.

5 Claims 1, 2, 9, 14 and 18 are currently amended.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) over US Patent 2,684,822 to Odin in view of US Patent 6,631,877 to Crain, et al.

10 As discussed in the response filed on December 1, 2005, to the Office Action dated August 29, 2005, the invention as originally presented is believed to be patentable over both Odin and Crain, individually and in combination.

Furthermore, the invention as currently amended in claim 1 is patentable over both Odin and Crain, individually and in combination.

15 Odin teaches a tripod supporting structure having a head 1 supported by three lockable telescoping legs 3a, 3b, 3c. Column 2, line 50-column 3, line 6. Each telescoping leg 3a, 3b, 3c is connected to the head 1 by a "flexible leg member 6." Column 3, lines 7-9. Each flexible leg "member 6 comprises a helical spring member 7 constructed of spring steel stock which is circular in cross section, over which is wound a secondary winding 8 of soft iron wire which is more or less oval in cross section." Column 3, lines 9-14.

20 Crain teaches a portable support in the form of a tripod 10 having a head 12 and three legs 14 connected to the head 12. Each leg 14 includes a fixed leg member 16, a telescoping leg member 18 and feet 20 with points 22 to help secure the tripod 10 in place. Column 5, lines 6-36.

25 The fixed leg member 16 of each leg 14 comprises a pair of rods 28 located on opposite sides of the telescoping leg member 18. "[T]he rods 28 and the telescoping leg member 18 are extruded (more specifically, "pultruded") from fiberglass or a similar material. Fiberglass has desirable properties of being resistant to warping and plastic deformation, which are detrimental to the precision of the tripod 10." Column 5, lines 37-50.

The present invention previously recited in amended claim 1 was a mounting bracket having a plurality of permanently bendable continuous solid material support rods each comprising opposing first and second end portions.

In contrast, Odin teaches telescoping legs 3a, 3b, 3c each having a “flexible leg member 6.”
5 Column 3, lines 7-9. However, the flexible leg member 6 of Odin is only a helical spring member 7 over which is wound a secondary winding 8 of soft iron wire. Column 3, lines 9-14. The spring 7 and wire winding 8 of Odin clearly fail to disclose or suggest the “permanently bendable continuous solid material support rods” presently recited in claim 1.

Rather, in clear contrast to the “permanently bendable continuous solid material support
10 rods” of the present invention, the flexible leg member 6 of Odin is not “continuous” nor “solid” material, as recited in claim 1. The helical spring member 7 portion and wire winding 8 of flexible leg member 6 of Odin cannot disclose or suggest a rod of “continuous solid material,” as recited in claim 1. The helical spring member 7 may be of “continuous solid material,” and the wire winding 8 may be of “continuous solid material,” but they are combined in the flexible leg member 6 of Odin which is
15 not “continuous” nor “solid” material, as recited in claim 1.

Thus, Odin fails to disclose or suggest the “permanently bendable continuous solid material support rods” of the present invention, as recited in previously claim 1.

Claim 1 is currently amended to recite “a plurality of uniformly continuous solid permanently bendable support rods.” Clearly, the helical spring member 7 portion and wire winding
20 8 of flexible leg member 6 of Odin cannot disclose or suggest the “uniformly continuous solid permanently bendable support rods,” as presently recited in claim 1. The helical spring member 7 may be of “continuous solid material,” and the wire winding 8 may be of “continuous solid material,” but neither the helical spring member 7 nor the wire winding 8 can be “uniformly continuous solid permanently bendable support rods,” as recited in currently amended claim 1.

Crain fails to provide the deficiencies of Odin as to the “a plurality of uniformly
25 continuous solid permanently bendable support rods,” as recited in currently amended claim 1. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, the rods 28 and the telescoping leg member 18 of the fixed leg member 16 of each leg 14 as taught by Crane are “extruded ... from fiberglass or a similar material” to be “resistant to warping and plastic deformation.” Column 5, lines 37-50.
30 Thus, Crain teaches away from the support rods of present invention being “bendable,” as

originally recited in claim 1 at least because Crain teaches only legs being “resistant to warping and plastic deformation.” In other words, Crain teaches only legs that are resistant to being “bendable.”

For at least the above reasons, the invention as presently recited in claim 1 is believed to be allowable over both Odin and Crain, individually and in combination.

Claims 1-8 are allowable at least as depending from allowable claim 1.

Amended claim 9 differs in scope from allowable claim 1. However, the above arguments and reasons for allowance directed to claim 1 are sufficiently applicable to claim 9 as to make repetition unnecessary. Thus, for each of the reasons above, claim 9 is believed to be allowable over the cited art.

Claims 10-15 and 17 are allowable at least as depending from allowable claim 9.

Claims 16 and 18-24 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) over US Patent 2,684,822 to Odin in view of US Patent 6,631,877 to Crain, et al. and further in view of US Patent 6,685,385 to Ledingham.

Claim 16 is allowable at least as depending from allowable base claim 9, as discussed above.

Amended claim 18 differs in scope from allowable claims 1 and 9. However, the above arguments and reasons for allowance directed to claims 1 and 9 are sufficiently applicable to claim 18 as to make repetition unnecessary. Thus, for each of the reasons above, claim 18 is believed to be allowable over the cited art.

Claims 19-24 are allowable at least as depending from allowable claim 18.

Regarding Claim 25: The Office Action again cited no basis for rejecting claim 25.

Claim 25 is believed to be allowable at least as depending from allowable base claim 9.

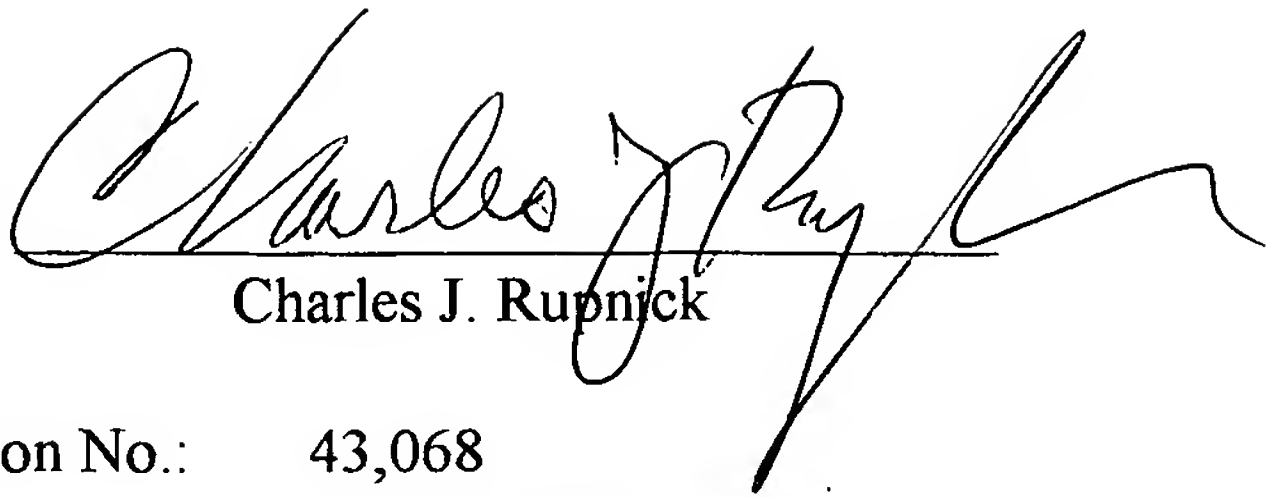
The claims now being in form for allowance, reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has questions or wishes to discuss any aspect of the case, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number given below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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